The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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He who has lost confidence can lose nothing more.—Boiste.

WHOLE NO. 933. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 18, NO. 50.

LABOR INJUNCTION DOES NOT ENFORCE STATUTE LAW

If the injunction maintains law and order in strike times, why can't this system be applied to gun men, bootleggers and all other law violators? Why not abolish our police and criminal courts?

In one mid-west city, recently, seven men were lined up against a wall and riddled with bullets by a bootlegging mob.

Why can't an injunction judge issue a sweeping edict, "Thou shalt not murder and thou shalt not bootleg?"

Then, if the order is violated, or the judge thinks it may be violated, he can fine and jail—not for murder and bootlegging—but for contempt of court.

The plan is simple and should be as effective as it is supposed to be in cases where workers are involved.

But gun men and bootleggers can not be enjoined because we are living under government by law.

The claim that injunctions are issued against workers to stop violence is untrue—the purpose is to stop them from doing acts that are not illegal under the law, but are illegal under an alleged "law" that equity courts have developed.

There is no law against workers picketing a plant. It may be said they might threaten or intimidate. In that event, they would no longer be pickets, but would be violators of a criminal statute and punished under the law.

In such case an injunction will not suffice. What is needed is a hurried call for the police reserves.

Injunction attorneys are well aware of this fact, but they dare not tell the truth—that they favor the injunction in industrial disputes because it permits equity courts to enforce its personal "law."

This alleged "law" provides that any interference with the income of an employer is an interference with "property."

If any legal act—when done by striking workers—is illegal if it lessens, or is liable to lessen, the income or prospective income of employers.

By this reasoning workers are thrown into the equity court, where personal rights and constitutional guarantees are submerged in the desire to protect "property."

If workers keep this thought in mind they will understand why the labor injunction is so feverishly defended, and why every effort is made to becloud the issue.

Workers should also keep in mind that a court of law is bound by constitutional guarantees, statutory enactments, precedents and rules that must be observed or the court will be reversed by a higher court.

A court of equity is unrestricted. The judge is only guided by his conscience and his moods. Under this system one-man government has a free hand.

Business Peddling Common Stock To Cut Fixed Costs; Labor Stung

New York, Feb. 23.—Forbes' Magazine, an authoritative financial spokesman, calls on business men "to get rid of bonds and preferred stock wherever possible, thus eliminating fixed interest and dividend obligations."

"The public at the moment does not want bonds or preferred stock; it will want the term implies—be common stock. The fixed charges will come in the future just as they have come in the past—it is extremely advantageous to have the lowest possible minimum of fixed interest and dividend charges to meet. Further elaboration of the advisability to take the step here recommended should be unnecessary."

Business men will understand this cautious hint. A bond is a mortgage on the property. Interest on bonds is a fixed charge on the plant, just as is taxes, depreciation, raw material, insurance and wages. If bondholders are not paid their interest the plant can be thrown into bankruptcy and a receiver appointed.

The common stockholder has no such protection. The preferred stockholder is what the term implies—he is paid interest if there is profits to divide after all fixed charges are paid and reserves are cared for.

"In times of stress," referred to by Forbes, profits intended for common stockholders can be juggled by a corporation's board of directors. They can be withheld or placed in reserve funds, while the common stockholders whistle.

The day of large profits, which benefited common stockholders, has evidently passed, according to Forbes, But the people are yet unaware of this fact, and the mania for stock buying continues. So this is a good time to change bonds to common stock. Then there will be no fixed charges while the public "holds the bag."

The suggestion to business men to get out from under bonds should be of interest to non-union employes who are placing their small savings in common stock.

CATCH PHRASES LULL PUBLIC; POVERTY IS STILL SOCIAL EVIL

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 23.—Old age, poverty and unemployment menace this country, said Dr. John A. Lapp, professor of sociology, Marquette University, in an address to a group of advertising men in this city. The speaker is former president of the National Council of Social Work.

Poverty is not abolished and there is no present indication that it will be, said Dr. Lapp. The very cause of poverty—lack of means of livelihood—is increasing. Old age is a greater menace than ever before, he said.

The speaker expressed disapproval of President Coolidge's economy program and criticised Henry Ford's statement that there is a job for every man in this country.

Dr. Lapp submitted the same cold analysis to various catch phrases and fallacies that pass as social facts.

He attacked the claim that poverty is decreasing, that cities have "crime waves," that most criminals come from the ranks of foreign-born persons and children of foreign-born persons, and that taxes can be lowered without slashing expenditures for service and improvements that the public demands.

Dr. Lapp declared that statistics are a sort of hocus-pocus and are not reliable.

"Crime waves," he asserted, are imaginative creations of a certain type of newspapers. Statistics show, he said, that the greater percentage of United States criminals are not foreign born or the children of foreign-born parents.

The speaker predicted that taxes will continue to go up and that some day statistics will regain the confidence of the public reposed in them.

SHORTER WORK WEEK IS AGAIN ENJOINED

New York, Feb. 23.—Supreme Court Justice Glennon ordered the Electrical Workers' Union and the Electrical Contractors' Association to show cause why they should not be enjoined from carrying out their five-day-week agreement. Complainants are the Building Trades Employers' Association.

Supreme Court Justice Levy recently enjoined the parties, but the order was dissolved by Justice Bijur. The latest attack is along the same lines, as building trades employers are fearful that other unions may place the entire industry on the five-day basis.

The complainants insist that the electrical contractors violated an agreement with other building trades employers that one agreement covering working conditions shall be made. The unions then reply that when they joined the association they reserved the right to settle disputes within their trade, and that wages and hours is a trade matter.

Justice Bijur upheld this position in dissolving the Levy injunction, but the latest court order again upholds the claim that employers can always find an accommodating injunction judge in this city.

WOULD REGULATE OIL; NOT COAL

The chairman of the Federal Trade Commission recently joined with the executive board of the American Petroleum Institute (oil producers) to devise methods to check production in this industry.

E. B. Reeser, president of the institute, declared that the meeting was "a red letter day in the oil industry," and that the institute "has definitely gone on record as favoring the use of a 'policeman' to help conserve the nation's greatest natural resources."

The United Mine Workers of America are urging similar legislation for the coal industry, but they are opposed by coal owners who claim such action is unconstitutional.

The government is aiding the oil owners, while the coal owners face an identical situation—over-development and waste for an equally important natural resource.

The oil conservation proposal does not include any reference to workers. The miners' conservation program would outlaw the "yellow dog" and permit this union to function.

Is that the reason why Uncle Sam aids business interests to blow hot in the case of oil and cold in the case of coal?

LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS WANT MEXICAN LABOR

Washington, Feb. 23.—Low-wage employers oppose any check on the flood of Mexican labor that is overrunning the mid-west and other sections of the country, said Congressman Box in a spirited plea that Congress place Mexico and Latin America in the quota list of the immigration act.

"Practically every big beet sugar manufacturer opposes this legislation, and the same is true of every Class A railroad, except one," said the Texas lawmaker. "These corporations want cheap, subservient labor."

The effect of this immigration is so disastrous to the social and economic life of the Southwest, especially, that the last convention of the A. F. of L. indorsed the principle that countries south of the Rio Grande be taken out of the non-quota list.

This immigration affects every industry and calling. Wages are depressed and work conditions that were secured after long effort have been lost through the advent of alien wives.

For this reason labor unions and locals are protesting against this invasion. They are joined by the entire trade union movement, which to date the privileged group referred to have succeeded in postponing action.

BIG DAM WON'T HARM PUBLIC UTILITIES

New York, Feb. 23.—Privately-owned utility corporations in southern California need not be alarmed over the government's proposal to build Boulder Dam.

The above summarizes a study by Spencer Trask & Co., well-known financiers, of the "probable effect" of Boulder Dam on electric light and power companies.

Under the Swing-Johnson bill, which embodies the government to build the dam, private companies can lease power. The study estimates that it will be "10 or possibly 15 years from now" before power is actually available, and by that time the dam will aid in absorbing the growing demand for power because of increased population.

"Under the above conditions," it is stated, "any unfavorable reaction towards the securities of privately owned southern California electric light and power companies, because of the Boulder Canyo Dam, is entirely unjustified by conditions, the stimulus already given to the industrial, agricultural and general business conditions in the territory has and will undoubtedly be reflected in a greatly increased demand for electric energy to an extent that the companies referred to in this analysis would in any event be under the necessity of providing additional facilities more than equal to the proposed Boulder Canyon plants."

FIRST "YELLOW DOG" CONTRACT SIGNED FOR MESS OF POTTAGE

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Esau signed the first "yellow dog" contract when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, said John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L., at a public hearing in the State Capitol on an anti-"yellow dog" law.

"Esau was hungry, just as workers and their dependents are hungry," said Mr. Frey. "Esau could only secure food by selling his birthright to his brother Jacob, just as workers waive their right to join a trade union as the price for securing employment."

Mr. Frey quoted decisions by the United States Supreme Court and by state courts that free will and absence of duress is a factor in every contract, and that such an instrument is illegal when one of the parties take an unfair advantage of the other.

Frey, who president of the Ohio Federation of Labor, led organized labor's fight against the "yellow dog" before the last State Legislature.

The unionists were upheld in the State Senate by a vote of 29 to 3, but opponents forced additional hearings in the House. Later the steering committee sidetracked the bill by trickery seldom equaled in legislative history.

A feature of the contest was a strong opinion by State's Attorney General Turner that the bill was constitutional.

NATIONS WON'T CHECK ILLICIT OPIUM TRADE

Geneva, Feb. 23.—The League of Nations' Advisory Commission on Opium has practically confessed its failure to control the illicit narcotic trade, after a 17-days' session in this city.

The committee names nations that refused to cooperate in suppressing this social scourge and names great chemical firms which have been frequently caught in the illegal traffic. Manufacturers, it is stated, have found a way to evade treaty restrictions by converting narcotics into chemical salts which can be easily changed back to their original form.

The commission's report was rejected by the Chinese delegate, who declared that he would recommend to his government that it act alone to defend itself from trafficking in opium.

He taunted Christian nations for their hesitancy to enforce the spirit of the covenant and declared that 60 narcotic factories are practically unhampered, while additional ones are being established in the Near East.

The known opium imports from India more than quadruple the lawful consumption. Persia produces 2,400,000 pounds of raw opium annually and Jugo-Slavia's production last year was increased by government encouragement to opium planters.

The Jugo-Slavia representative on the League's opium commission was chairman of that body.

COSTS ARE FAKED BY POWER TRUST

New York, Feb. 23.—Costs are faked by the Electric Bond and Share Company, Judge Robert E. Healy, chief counsel of the Federal Trade Commission, told the Southern New York District Court.

The company opposes the commission's attempt to investigate its books as part of the probe of public utilities, ordered by the Senate.

The company is a holding concern, but, according to Judge Healy, dominates the affairs of 150 public utility companies in 22 states. He charged that the company collects profits on the electric service of nearly 1,000 communities through contract fees and dummy stock deals.

Congress must know this cost, Healy declared, to determine whether the fees are honest or if they are "a mere device for getting a special dividend for a privileged class of stockholders."

The 150 companies paying for these services have a total of 1,156 directorships. Of these 413 are held by only 42 men, each of whom is a director of one of the Bond and Share Company, Judge Healy told the court. He added:

"The presidents of 33 out of 62 operating subsidiaries of the National Power and Light Company are officers and employes of the Electric Bond and Share Company."

Congress will have to face the problem of legislating on this subject, the commission's attorney said. To inform Congress fully, he declared, the records must learn whether stock holdings and contracts like these of the Bond and Share Company tend to create a monopoly.

NIGHT WORK HARMFUL TO TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Greenville, S. C., Feb. 23.—Night work in textile mills only result in an already overdeveloped textile market, declared W. D. Little, general manager of the American Spinning Company.

Mr. Little puts no faith in any agreement mill owners may make, and he favors legislation to outlaw this practice. Neither does he place hope in the export trade, and declares that the home market must be developed. By difference he calls for a high purchasing power of the people. The demand for legislation contradicts the plea of "less government in business."

"As long as mills operate at night, there will be no prosperity in our industry," said Mr. Little. "Night work must be abolished. This can not be done voluntarily, because mill men will not stick to their agreement. If all the textile states forbid night work no mill would suffer.

"Experts or anything else will help as long as we are suffering from overproduction, as is now the case. The remedy is not from this cause."

The statement of attention to the report of a state commission to investigate prison labor contracts. The commission declared:

"Whenever the contractor goes in the warden goes out. It is financially wise for a state to exploit prisoners for profit, and it is not only wrong but foolish to allow this exploitation to be delegated to some profit corporation. No one pretends that a contractor is concerned in any way with the moral or physical welfare of the prisoners. The contract system is the worst form of slavery, because it is a delegated form of slavery."

It is estimated that the Dearborn Company will make a profit of $50,000 a year.

CONVICT EXPLOITERS ARE RAMPANT IN IOWA

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 23.—Organized labor is exposing a prison labor scandal in this state that would be legalized through the passage of a bill now pending in the Iowa Legislature.

The law provides for the state-use system of goods made by convict labor, but if delegated to some profit corporation. No one pretends that a contractor is concerned in any way with the moral or physical welfare of the prisoners. The contract system is the worst form of slavery, because it is a delegated form of slavery."

It is estimated that the Dearborn Company will make a profit of $50,000 a year.

FIRE ENGINE CONCERN INVOLVED IN BRIBERY

Minneapolis, Feb. 23.—Donald Green, representative of the anti-union American La France Foamite Corporation, has been indicted on charges of bribing three city aldermen to vote for a $14,500 contract.

This concern, located in Elmira, N. Y., is warring on union machinists. According to the indictments $1,500 was used to swing the award of the five votes on the city council's fire department committee to favor the La France fire engine over the protest of organized labor. At its first trial the apparatus ran amuck and demolished two automobiles.

One of the aldermen took advantage of the state "spreader's law" and resigned his office after admitting that he received a bribe.

Hudson, Wis., Feb. 23.—Members of the city council refuse to do business with the American La France & Foamite Corporation. Bribery charges in Minneapolis, which involve the company, resulted in the rejection of the company's bid for a fire engine, although it was the lowest bid received.

New Ulm, Minn., Feb. 23.—After organized labor told the city council how the American La France representative corrupted Minneapolis officials, and how it is attempting to destroy the Nicholas Company of Elmira, N. Y., the city council rejected all bids for a new fire engine.

LAWMAKER EXPOSES TWO-FACE CENSORS

Washington, Feb. 23.—"The war gave the individual an inferiority complex," said Congressman Black on the floor of the House in opposing a proposed federal censorship of movie pictures.

"The reformers assumed guardianship at the end of the war," said the New York lawmaker.

"The arguments for censorship are largely based on the theory that the National Government is a sort of hierarchy that is descending to a religion which denies the right of choice to the individual conscience and sets up a standard of rigid conformity with the notions of the political group in power.

"The strange thing about the reformers who advocate motion picture censorship is that they claim there is a crime wave due to the pictures, but when the same reformers argue for prohibition they insist that prohibition has eliminated crime."

RAIL TRAVEL DROPS

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The automobile dealt a hard blow to railroad passenger travel last year, according to statistics compiled by Railway Age.

The number of passengers, 788,000,000, was the smallest of any year since 1905. The number of passenger miles, 31,635,000,000, was smaller than in any year since 1909. The number of miles traveled by the average train or traveler, 264, was the fewest in the period from 1889 to 1929.

MARINE ACT IGNORED; SEAMEN WILL PROTEST

Washington, Feb. 23.—Delegates to the convention of the International Seamen's Union in this city declared it was the most harmonious and educational in their history.

J. B. Wilson, treasurer of the National Union of Seamen of Great Britain, attended the convention. He is a son of Havelock Wilson, president of that organization.

"The seamen's motto, 'Tomorrow is another day,' was reaffirmed by our convention," said Andrew Furuseth, president of the international, who was re-elected.

A feature of the convention was sessions of the committee of the whole, rather than refer matters to committees. This was the rule on every question, except auditing the finances, which was handled by a committee of three.

Violation of the Merchant Marine Act was discussed at length and President Furuseth was authorized to take up the matter up with the Post Office Department, which subsidizes merchant and passenger ships for carrying mail.

These vessels make no attempt to employ American citizens as seamen. By employing aliens, who officiate, to be citizens, laws are violated with impunity, and seamen dare not insist on their rights.

CHILD WELFARE WORK NEW PUBLIC FEATURE

Washington, Feb. 23.—Secretary of Labor Davis told a conference of state directors of child welfare work that public welfare work is playing a role in the United States similar to that of public education in the last decade.

"Consequently you are struggling with many of the same difficulties," said the secretary. "Oftentimes you are misunderstood, handicapped by appropriations that are too small and laws that are inadequate.

"As I have said many times, no man ever stands so straight as when he stoops to help a child, and the same is true of governments. The future of our country will be only what our children make it. The future is in their hands and it is our duty to see that they are properly protected and cared for in the days of their youth."

OLD THEORIES DITCHED

New York, Feb. 23.—Mass production is forcing economists to scrap their text books, said Julius H. Barnes, former head of the United States Grain Corporation.

The speaker said the new industrial system has sounded the death knell of several definitions of supply and demand. Cut-and-dried definitions are no longer applicable.

PEOPLE NEED CARE

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 23.—There are 10,000 people in this state who need care, said Governor Fred W. Green in an address to the annual convention of the Michigan Federation of Labor.

ALL TAXES ARE PAID BY WEALTH PRODUCERS

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 23.—"The application of labor alone gives value to land, improvements or any other so-called intrinsic wealth," said Senator Donnelly in opposing a constitutional amendment to the State Constitution that only real property holders be permitted to vote in bond elections.

The Senate adopted the proposal, although no one answered Senator Donnelly's reasoning.

He refuted the generally accepted theory that workers do not pay taxes.

"The only farmer who pays taxes," he declared, "is the one who works his farm; the only mine owner who pays taxes is the one who works his own mine."

He contended that since the owner of real property must pass of necessity include taxes, along with interest on his investment, in his rental charge, he is not, in reality, paid all the taxes on the property.

LABOR WILL RESIST BAN ON 40-YEAR MEN

Miami, Fla., Feb. 23.—Immigration bars must be raised to greater heights if employers continue to refuse employment to workers who are over 40 years old, said Frank Green, at the quarterly meeting of the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

"To draw the dead line of employment when a man is 40 or 45 years-old is folly," said Mr. Green. "Most men are in their prime at this age. They have acquired a mental balance and a rounded knowledge that equips them for service, but they are refused employment because of the new state of mind of employers.

It is inconsistent for employers to lay off middle age men and then demand that young men be imported to fill their plants. If this policy is to continue, organized labor will urge laws that will further restrict immigration."

Data in possession of the Executive Council shows that private compensation insurance companies encourage employers to discharge workers over 40 and 45 years by offering lower insurance when younger men are employed.

COMMITTEE MAY MEET WITHOUT CHAIRMAN

Washington, Feb. 23.—Speaker Longworth of the House ruled that a committee action is legal, if favored by a majority, even though a call for the meeting is not signed by the chairman.

Twelve members of the House Military Affairs Committee voted to report the Madden bill, leasing Muscle Shoals to the American Cyanamid Company. Chairman Morin of the committee held that the meeting was irregular since he had not issued the call. Speaker Longworth ruled that the committee had a legal right to transact business on that day, which was the regular meeting day of the committee.

When the decision favors the power trust, the wider effect of the speaker's rule will be to clip the wings of committee chairmen who refuse to call meetings.

EIGHT-HOUR BILL KILLED; CONSTITUTION IGNORED

Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 23.—Public work contractors killed a bill in the state legislature which would make the eight-hour law on public work enforceable.

This action was taken despite a clear provision in the State Constitution that, "eight hours' actual work shall constitute a day's work in the mines and on public work in this state."

Another provision provides that "it shall be the duty of the State Legislature to enact such laws as will carry into effect the provisions of the Constitution."

THE OBVIOUS ALWAYS PLEASES

From the Australian Worker, Sydney, New South Wales

People love to have the Obvious served up to them in long official documents, bearing on their face an impression of profundity.

It flatters their understanding to be told in an elaborate terminology that two and two make four, or that lines parallel to each other will not meet however far extended, that the greater includes the lesser, or any other nice little self-evident proposition of similar calibre.

"We have always been of that opinion," people then say, "and here now is a very important report expressing the same view, and confirming us. It is surely a great document of great value."

It is pleasant to be told that Australia is in no immediate danger of bankruptcy. It flatters us to hear that our country is of considerable size and contains a lot of undeveloped resources which will one day be turned to profitable account.

To be advised that immigration should be restricted to the capacity of the country to absorb new population is also very gratifying to our intelligence, which tells us exactly the same thing.

And everybody, of course, is delighted when the Obvious is handed to them.

MORRISON'S FATHER PASSES ON; WAS 95

Washington, Feb. 23.—Christopher Morrison, father of Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., died at Walkerton, Ontario. He was 95. The A. F. of L. secretary was in Miami, Fla., in attendance at the quarterly meeting of the A. F. of L. Executive Council at the time. He immediately left for Canada and reached his father's home in time for the funeral.

The wife of Mr. Morrison, Sr., died a few years ago.

ECONOMICS BREED WAR

New York, Feb. 23.—"The greatest danger to world peace will come from economic conflicts over oil, iron, coal, rubber and other raw materials," Arthur Salter, director of the economic and finance section of the League of Nations, at a luncheon in this city.

"We have ahead of us a period of quite exceptionally intense competition," said Sir Arthur. "There is grave reason to fear that one government after another will adopt measures of commercial policy which other governments will think to be unfair and provocative."

REDS' STRIKE "GAIN" IS PUBLICITY STUNT

New York, Feb. 23.—The cleverness of publicity-seeking Communists is exemplified in the widely advertised strike "victory" in the needle trades. Their newly organized I. W. W. movement called the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union. They signed an agreement with the Dress Manufacturers' Association.

Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union declare that the bosses' organization is a fictitious outfit and was organized by Hyman Price, brother-in-law of Louis Hyman and Jacob Axelrod, well-known Communists. The latter is a former organizer of the "red" Trade Union Educational League.

Press refuses to give the names of employers who are in his organization, and the regular unionists show that the agreement alleged to be signed was "copied word for word" from the agreement between the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and employers which has been in effect since 1923.

CANADIAN WORKERS CHECKED BY HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 23.—The House passed the Box bill, which sustains the Department of Labor in its interpretation of the Jay treaty and the admission of workers who live in Canada temporarily to United States cities along the Canadian border.

The bill will admit Canadian-born laborers who have lived with certain immigration laws. Canadian citizens who were born outside Canada must remain there the equal of a year in the country of their birth.

Interpretation of the Jay treay is now before the United States Supreme Court. The Box bill must pass the Senate. If it is caught in the legislative jam that marks the closing days of the Senate, it will have to be reintroduced as new legislation when the next Congress convenes.

INJUNCTION BILL IS OPPOSED BY BAR

New York, Feb. 23.—The Bar Association of New York opposes a pending bill in the state legislature that would require notice and a hearing before the issuance of an injunction in an industrial dispute. Trial by jury, in contempt of court is charged, is also provided. The State Federation of Labor favors this bill.

The Bar Association committee reported that to require notice and a hearing before issuance of an injunction would nullify the law in cases "where damage is imminent it will be accomplished before a hearing can be held."

JUG-HANDLED "LAW" OPPOSED BY LABOR

Boston, Feb. 23.—Organized labor in this state urges legislation that will put employer and employe equality before the law with employers.

Trade unionists can not strike to secure the union shop, but an employer can discharge a worker because he is a member of organized labor. It is also illegal for trade unionists to ask sympathizers to withhold their patronage from unfair employers. These employers, however, are given a free hand to victimize workers.